

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 12, 2004. Claims 24-26 are pending.

Claim 24 stands rejected under Section 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Popovich. This Section 102(e) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

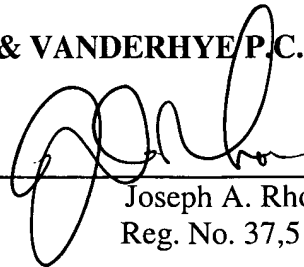
Popovich is not prior art. In particular, Popovich has a U.S. filing date of November 23 or 24, 2000. In contrast, the instant application claims priority on dates of March 31, 2000 and July 27, 2000, which are well before the Popovich filing date. Certified English translations of the priority documents are enclosed herewith. Since the reference is not prior art, the rejection should be withdrawn.

If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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